

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0270

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06429

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR CT

SUBJ: ELYSEE COMMENTS ON BOKASSA REGIME

REF: (A) PARIS 3955 (EXDIS), (B) BANGUI 79 (EXDIS)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR QUANTON AND EMBOFF MARCH 3, ELYSEE AFRICAN ADVISOR RENE JOURNIAC ECHOED MOST OF THE VIEWS TOWARDS BOKASSA RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS (SEE REFS). JOURNIAC SAID THAT BOKASSA IS TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE. WHILE FOR THE MOMENT HE MAY BE GIVING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DECISION MAKING POWER IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD TO SOME OF HIS MINISTERS, EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT BOKASSA CAN NOT RESIST INTERFERING IN UNHELPFUL WAYS, MAKING IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

2. IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, JOURNIAC NOTED, THE CAE IS HELPFUL. FOR THAT REASON, AND BECAUSE THEY DO NOT SEE ANY LIKELY REPLACEMENT ON THE HORIZON, THE FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO HELP BOKASSA "MEET END OF THE MONTH PAYMENTS". JOURNIAC HINTED THAT FRENCH AID WOULD BE SOMEWHAT REDUCED, HOWEVER.

3. THE QUESTIONS OF REPRESENTATION AT BOKASSA'S
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CORONATION AND OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE ALSO TROUBLE THE GOF. (WHILE JOURNIAC DID NOT SPECULATE ON WHAT THE FRENCH MIGHT DECIDE, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA DE LA ROCHERE INDICATED THAT HIS RECOMMENDATION PROBABLY WOULD BE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF A BUSINESS TRIP TO AFRICA, COOPERATION MINISTER GALLEY BE TAPPED TO

REPRESENT FRANCE AT THE CORONATION.) BOTH JOURNIAC
AND DE LA ROCHERE HOPED A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO PUT
OFF BOKASSA'S VISIT REQUESTS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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